



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2018

NEW MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **alfalfa hay** production in New Mexico is forecast at 882,000 tons, according to the August 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 7 percent from the 950,000 tons produced in 2017. New Mexico farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 180,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, down 10,000 acres from 2017. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 4.90 tons per acre, compared to last year's yield of 5.00 tons per acre.

All **cotton** production in New Mexico is expected to total 171,000 480-lb bales, up 35 percent from 2017. **Upland cotton** harvested acreage is forecast at 65,000 acres, up 19,000 acres from last year. As of August 1, producers expect to harvest 160,000 480-lb bales of upland cotton, up 42 percent from last year. Upland yield is forecast at 1,182 pounds per acre, up 3 pounds from last year. As of July 29, 32 percent of cotton was setting bolls, compared with 30 percent last year and the five-year average of 48 percent. The cotton crop was rated 13 percent poor, 53 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 3 percent excellent as of July 29. **Pima cotton** harvested acreage is estimated at 6,900 acres, down 500 acres from last year. As of August 1, producers expect to harvest 11,000 480-lb bales of Pima cotton, compared with 13,300 bales last year. Pima yield is forecast at 765 pounds per acre, down 98 pounds from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2018 is forecast at 57.8 million tons, up 5 percent from 2017. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.33 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 17.4 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast, but up 5 percent from 2017.

All cotton production is forecast at 19.2 million 480-pound bales, down 8 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 911 pounds per harvested acre, up 6 pounds from last year. Harvested area for all cotton is expected to total 10.1 million acres, down 9 percent from 2017. Upland cotton production is forecast at 18.5 million 480-pound bales, down 9 percent from 2017. Upland harvested area is expected to total 9.90 million acres, down 9 percent from last year. Pima cotton production, forecast at 779,000 bales, is up 11 percent from last year. Pima cotton harvested area, at 240,400 acres, is down 4 percent from 2017.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.